79th Annual Lightning St Petersburg
Winter Championship
March 17th-21th, 2027
Notice of Race

1.RULES

1.1 The Organizing Authority is the St. Petersburg Yacht Club (SPYC) in conjunction with the International Lightning Class Association.

1.2 The regatta will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS 2025-2028), the ILCA constitution, By-Laws, Lightning Specifications and the Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships (hereafter referred to as the Documents Governing).

1.3 The rules identified below will be changed as noted. The sailing instructions may also change other racing rules.

1.3.1 RRS 42.3(c) is changed to read: "Except on a beat to windward, when surfing (rapidly accelerating down the front of a wave) or planing is possible, the boat's crew may pull the sheet only, (not the guy), in order to initiate surfing or planing, but each sail may be pulled only once for each wave or gust of wind. When the mainsail is pumped, only that part of the sheet between the crew member handling the sheet and the first block on the boom shall be used."

1.3.2 RRS is changed to add the following, "The two turn penalty as provided in RRS Rule 44 will apply with the additional provision that when an infringing yacht has its spinnaker drawing at the time of the infringement, drops it completely (below the gooseneck) while taking her penalty, and reset it immediately and has it drawing after the penalty, the penalty is one turn instead of two."

1.4 The US SAILING prescriptions to RRS 63.1 do not apply.

1.5 International Lightning Class Association Bylaw Article VII 5(a)(ii) is amended to add Electronic devices with the following functionality are permitted: Heading, Time, Distance to the line, OCS/Clear Start Messaging.

1.6. The Vakaros RaceSense system will be utilized by the by the Race Committee (RC). This changes RRS 41 (c). A working Vakaros Atlas 2 configured for RaceSense at check-in shall be mounted above any other instruments on the aft side of the mast at all times while racing.

1.7. Each boat shall either provide a working Atlas 2 at check in for configuration with Race Sense or shall rent an Atlas 2 with mount from Vakaros at the following link: Rental Units

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

2.1 The regatta is open to all boats of the ILCA that conform to class rules.

2.2 The skipper must be a Life, Active or Associate member of the ILCA. Crew must be Life, Active, Associate or Crew Member of the ILCA.

2.3 An approved Measurement Certificate must be available to the ILCA Office for each boat entered.

2.4 Eligible boats may enter by completing the online entry form at http//www.SPYC.org (regattas). Payments will be through Yacht Scoring. Any questions please contact SPYC Race Director Todd Fedyszyn at todd@spyc.org. You may also contact Regatta Chair Karen Park at crewaa@gmail.com

2.5 Boats may simultaneously compete in any of the Championship, Masters, and Woody divisions.

2.6 Master qualifications: The skipper must be at least 55 years of age as of 12/31/2027 and the total crew age must be at least 130 years as of 12/31/2027.

3. FEES

3.1 Entry fee: $475.00 per boat if paid on or before January 15, 2027. Entry fees paid January 16 until deadline February 22, 2027 will be $525.00. Entry fees after the deadline of February 22, 2027 will be $575.00 and may be accepted solely at the discretion of the OA**.**

3.2 Entry Fees include four days of racing, $15 dollars to the ILCA, trophies, Welcome Party, Banquet and 7% Florida sales tax.

4. SCHEDULE

Wednesday -March 17th

1200-1600	Registration	SP Sailing Center

Thursday -March 18th

0900	Skippers meeting	Sailing Center
1100	First Warning	
1800	Welcome Party	YC Ballroom

Friday- March 19th

0900	Briefing
1100	First Warning

Saturday - March 20th

0900	Briefing
1100	First Warning
1800	Banquet @ SPYC

Sunday- March 21st

0900	Briefing
1100	First Warning
1500	No warning signal after this time.

5. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions will be available via Yacht Scoring

6. BERTHING

Boats will be launched, hauled, and stored at the St. Petersburg Sailing Center, 250 2nd Avenue SE.

A map of available parking lots downtown will be posted as an NOR addendum.

No vehicle parking is allowed at the St. Petersburg Sailing Center or SPYC.

7. VENUE

The racing area will be in Tampa Bay, East of the new St. Petersburg Municipal Pier.

8. COURSES

The courses will be windward-leeward.

9. SCORING

9.1 The scoring system will be the Low Point Scoring System of RRS Appendix A.

9.2 10 races are scheduled for the Championship division. No more than 3 races may be scheduled for any one day. One race must be completed to constitute a regatta. When 1-5 races have been completed, a boats series score will be the total of all her races. When 6 races have been completed, a boats series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst race. This changes RRS A2.

9.3 8 races are scheduled for the Masters and Woodie divisions. One race must be completed to constitutes a regatta. When 1-3 races have been completed, a boats series score will be the total of all her races. When 4 or more races have been completed, a boats series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst race. This changes RRS A2. Only the first two races each day will be scored in the Masters and Woody divisions.

10. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to the skippers and crews placing first through fifth in the Championship Division, first through third in the Masters Division and first in the Woody Division providing three or more Woody entries are racing. Winter Championship Tampa Bay Mid-Fleet Award and the Colin Park Memorial Trophy awarded to the top placing married couple.

11. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Sailing Instructions will change RRS 41 to permit the use of hand-held VHF radios to receive communications from the Race Committee on a predetermined channel. The Race Committee intends to use VHF radio to communicate with the fleet on the water. Failure to receive a hail, for a hail to be made, or the order of hails shall not be grounds for granting redress.

12. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See Racing Rule 3, Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the regatta.

As a condition of my **entry** *in the Winter Lightning Championship, and being fully knowledgeable of the risks of sailing a competitive sport, waive any and all claims, charges, losses and liabilities including those caused by negligence, against the International Lightning Class Association and the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, their respective officers, trustees, contractors, employees and members, and against any and all volunteers which may arise from, or in any way be in connection with, the activities of the regatta and its organizers and sponsors. I further agree to be bound by The Racing Rules of Sailing and all other rules that govern this event. I certify that my boat has a valid ILCA Measurement Certificate.*

13. FURTHER INFORMATION and REGATTA CONTACTS

St. Petersburg Yacht Club Website http://www.spyc.org/regattas for **Club Cards**

Accommodations, Event Schedule; General Information with Tips, Maps & Parking; Racing Area Chart Yacht Scoring for registration, NOR, and Results
http://www.yachtscoring.com

FOR HELP Contact:

Karen Park, *Regatta Chair*
Phone: 727-244-2582
Email: crewaa@gmail.com

Todd Fedyszyn
SPYC Race Director
todd@spyc.org
727 822-3113

By entering the Championships competitors accept that they may be photographed and/or videotaped participating in the race and/or using the Championship facilities and they consent to the taking of such images and to the use, reuse, publication and republication of such images in any media, in conjunction with the competitors name or not, without compensation and without the competitor's approval of such images or any use thereof.